

I am writing to provide Comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. The E-Rate has been of great importance to my school division because it has helped our students and teachers gain access to a wealth of online resources, to communicate and collaborate, and to develop the 21st century skills necessary for college and career. However, E-Rate funding levels have not kept pace with my school division's current and future bandwidth needs. I urge you to consider raising the E-rate funding level to at least \$5 billion per year, which is close to the average demand level for each of the past two years.

As a instructional Technology Resource Teacher in Virginia, I know that seamlessly infusing digital learning throughout the school curriculum is a pre-requisite for students to graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in today's global economy. Access to high speed broadband is the key for modern teaching and learning to occur in all schools across the country.

In my school division we use digital learning to differentiate instruction while meeting state standards. An example of digital learning in the schools that I serve is students creating voicethreads in which they explain they pretend to be travel agents enticing immigrants to come to America during our colonial period. Students use the knowledge they gain about the colonial regions to explain both what to expect in the way of life at the time in that region as well as the reasons the different regions/colonies were founded.

My school division's network is currently barely keeping up with demand, and the need for a high speed reliable network is only going to increase in the near future.

The E-rate program has been a phenomenal success in bringing Internet access to almost every classroom in America. In the last

funding cycle applications from schools and libraries totaled more than \$5 billion, more than double the available funding. I respectfully urge the FCC to increase funding for the E-Rate program to at least \$5 billion to meet this demand. All students need access to high speed broadband. Our nation's future depends on their success.